

High Plains Western Heritage Center

825 Heritage Drive, Spearfish, SD 57783

May 6th, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Wildfire Awareness Month



The Influence of Wildfire in the Black Hills

Wildland fire is the primary agent of change in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming and has had a direct impact on the evolution of Ponderosa Pine ecosystem in which we live. The first portion of this program is an introduction to fire behavior, its interaction with forest composition, and how historical fires influence fires of today. Learning how fire occurred in the past will help us understand how fire will, inevitably, affect the forest in the future.

The necessity for a Fire Adapted Communities

Current environmental conditions that effect wildland fire is compelling us to change the way we prepare for the next wildfire event. Although wildfire will always be a threat, we can reduce its effects with appropriate planning. Planning may include land management practices, structural ignitability, developing survivable space and the knowledge that a wildfire may impact our lives at some time. Adapting our community to be better prepared from wildfire will reduce fire effects. This will save lives, property and resources along with reducing suppression cost and risk to firefighters.

Brian Rafferty from the US Forest Service will present on Fire Ecology/Fire History

Mike Dannenberg from the Bureau of Land Management will present on Fire Adapted Communities

Wildfire is everyone's responsibility

For more information go to:

www.gpfiresafecouncil.com

www.fireadapted.org

www.sdwildfireawareness.com

www.firewise.org

www.readysetgo.org

Brian Rafferty, Forestry Technician

North Zone Fire Management

Black Hills National Forest

Brian is a lifelong resident of the Black Hills having grown up in Sturgis and now living in Spearfish. Brian's career began with the Forest Service "a while ago" with the fire crew in Deadwood, SD. He has worked primarily with fire suppression and now hazardous fuels management with the Bearlodge Ranger District in Sundance, Wyoming and the Northern Hills Ranger District in Spearfish. One of Brian's favorite things about forestry is planning a project in its beginning stages and seeing that project through to implementation. October is prescribed fire season – a time to see those projects through.

Away from work, Brian enjoys snowmobiling with his family after the perfect storm, coaching his daughter's basketball team and cheering for his son in whatever middle school season is upon us.

Mike Dannenberg

State Program Lead for Community Assistance

Bureau of Land Management, Montana/Dakotas

Mike has worked at all levels of government in fire suppression; as a Captain for Missoula Rural Fire District; for both the States of Montana and Idaho in fire management; and now, working for the BLM as the Montana/Dakota State Lead for Community Assistance.

His Current duties include providing management, technical expertise, and oversight to the wildland fire mitigation & education program, community assistance, and wildfire prevention program. He also provides mitigation and education support to the field offices, participates in interagency prevention activities, and represents the MT BLM at the national level.

He has worked numerous fires as a Division/Group Supervisor, Safety Officer, and as a Structure Protection Specialist for the Northern Rockies Type 1 teams. He was the course Development Chairman for S-205 "Fireground Operations in the Urban Interface".

A Forestry Graduate of the University of Illinois, he received his Master's from the University of Montana in Forestry- Fire Science. His thesis was on the Wildland Urban Interface- A Montana Viewpoint.

This program is sponsored by:

Lawrence County Firewise, Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, The Great Plains Fire Safe Council and the SD Wildfire Awareness program.

